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## **AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$57.2 MILLION FOR RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROJECTS**

*Local Communities to receive 1.3 Million in funding for  
building renovations, emergency response vehicles, and street maintenance*

Harrisburg, PA May 19, 2009 — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the selection of nearly \$57.2 million in essential community facilities (CF) and emergency responder projects that are being funded immediately with federal funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The 277 projects will help communities in 39 states.

“The Recovery Act funds provided today will help support rural communities’ efforts to protect and serve their residents by providing essential public safety services,” said Vilsack. “These projects are the first of many that are expected to create or save more than 1,326 jobs and help rural communities provide expanded access to health care, support first responder efforts, and finance libraries, schools and day care centers.”

Approximately \$19 million of the \$60 million being announced today will be leveraged with \$6.9 million from other sources to help local communities with the purchase of emergency services and systems, and fire and rescue equipment, including more than 120 fire, medical and police vehicles.

All of the funding is being provided through USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities program, which helps finance and develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include childcare centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Through its Community Facilities program, USDA ensures that such facilities are available to all rural residents. These funds are available to public bodies, non-profit organizations, and recognized Indian tribes.

Mansfield Borough, PA, will receive \$1,200,000 in CF funding to purchase and renovate two buildings which will house local government and police barracks. Perry Township, PA will receive a \$38,750 CF Loan and a \$26,250 CF Grant to purchase a dump truck to be used for maintenance of township roads and snow and ice removal during winter months. Newport Borough, PA, will receive a \$91,000 CF Loan and a \$49,000 CF Grant to replace eight storm water collection boxes, existing storm inlets, streetscape revitalization, and a new police vehicle.

Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement. More information about USDA Rural Development can be found at [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov).

President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on Feb. 17, 2009. It is designed to jumpstart the nation's economy, create or save millions of jobs and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

More information about USDA's Recovery Act efforts is available at [www.usda.gov/recovery](http://www.usda.gov/recovery). More information about the Federal government's efforts on the Recovery Act is available at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

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